

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-5 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Segaram, U.S. Patent No. 5,822,325. Claims 6-8 and 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, which Applicant acknowledges with gratitude.

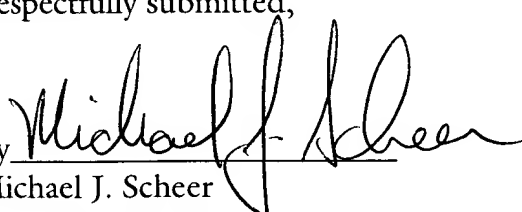
By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 7-8, 10, and 16-17, and cancels claims 2-6, 9 and 11-15. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 6 along with the limitations of each intervening claim. Independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 15 along with the limitations of each intervening claim. The amendments are in accord with the Examiner's invitation to rewrite claims 6-8 and 15-17 in view of their allowable subject matter.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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